

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR EARLSDON

An article which appeared in the Coventry Evening Telegraph on 20th June - 'Cash help with dangerous old walls' - may have cheered up some Earlsdon people but unfortunately the report was very misleading. The fact of the matter is that the Council were quick to act publicly by issuing warnings and notices but have been very slow to do anything constructive since.

Following a survey of boundary walls in the area by council officials earlier this year, 726 notices were issued requesting owners to demolish or repair their walls. People receiving these notices might reasonably have expected some help from the Council to meet the cost involved, which in some cases totalled several hundred pounds. The worry caused by the notices, particularly to the many old folk in the area, moved a number of residents to form the Earlsdon Voluntary Action Group, as described in our April issue.

DISAPPOINTED

In order to help more local people with their walls, the Action Group applied for £860 to pay for materials, from the Council's Community Fund for Environmental Improvements



Action Group members Richard Hall and John Hawthorne find this wall a pushover.



but the application was turned down as 'inappropriate', since the walls problem was being discussed in the context of improvement and other grants available to householders. This is in marked contrast to the response to the problem by the family men in the Action Group, which has been tremendous in terms of the time and labour willingly given. Jim King, leader of the Group, commented: "I am very disappointed with the help we have received from the Council, which has been nil". He also cited the case of a person who received a 'dangerous structure' notice in April and then several weeks later was told by another official from the Building Surveyors that with a little pointing up the wall would stand for another ten years. We wonder how many local people have already spent hundreds of pounds needlessly!

MISLEADING

In the Telegraph report on 20th June it was stated that the Council had changed its policy to assist more with the walls problem. This in fact was totally misleading. Admittedly, walls are now eligible for inclusion in improvement and intermediate grants but it has only been this particular Council which failed to include walls before anyway. Also, you still cannot get an improvement or intermediate grant just for your wall; you need to spend up to hundreds of pounds on fundamental house improvements or the installation of missing standard amenities such as a fixed bath or shower. Furthermore, if you have already had a grant you cannot get another. These measures are therefore of little or no use to hundreds of people with problem walls in our area. Of course, in a General Improvement Area (G.I.A.) or Housing

(Continued on page 7)

Community Association News

At the last meeting of the Steering Committee on 24th May we looked at the allocation of the money received from the Earlsdon Festival funds. The sum of £85 was set aside for E.C.H.O., and it was also agreed to publicise the fact that we now have a small amount of money that can be used to help any new group that needs something to get it off the ground. So if you know of any such group in Earlsdon, Chapelfields or Hearsall, put them in touch with the chairman of the Community Association, 77 Newcombe Road, Earlsdon. Tel: 713385.

Other matters raised included the problem of a good central meeting place for small meetings and that the Library was not available during the evening. We have written to Mr. Davis, the Director of Libraries and Museums in Coventry, to ask whether this can be changed. We have also asked him for permission to sell E.C.H.O. at the Library, since so many people have requested this.

We have affiliated to the Coventry Voluntary Service Council and we are anxious to establish closer links with the schools. Meanwhile we await the coming of the new

Community Tutor at Hearsall School in September with interest. His name is Jeff Warren and he works at present in Nottinghamshire. We look forward to a close working relationship with him when he settles in.

The next meeting of our Steering Committee is at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 11th July at Hearsall School. We shall be discussing, amongst other things, a forthcoming meeting with the Earlsdon Residents and Ratepayers Association, reporting on our projects including a neighbourhood care scheme and E.C.H.O., and making plans for a public meeting to present our ideas about the formal establishment of a Community Association. If you are interested, why not come along?

Sadly, this will be the last meeting with our Honorary Secretary, Jenny Tilley, who is moving to Nottingham. We all owe her a great deal for her hard work and enthusiasm - one of the people who has brought so much to the life of Earlsdon. We wish her good luck in her new home.

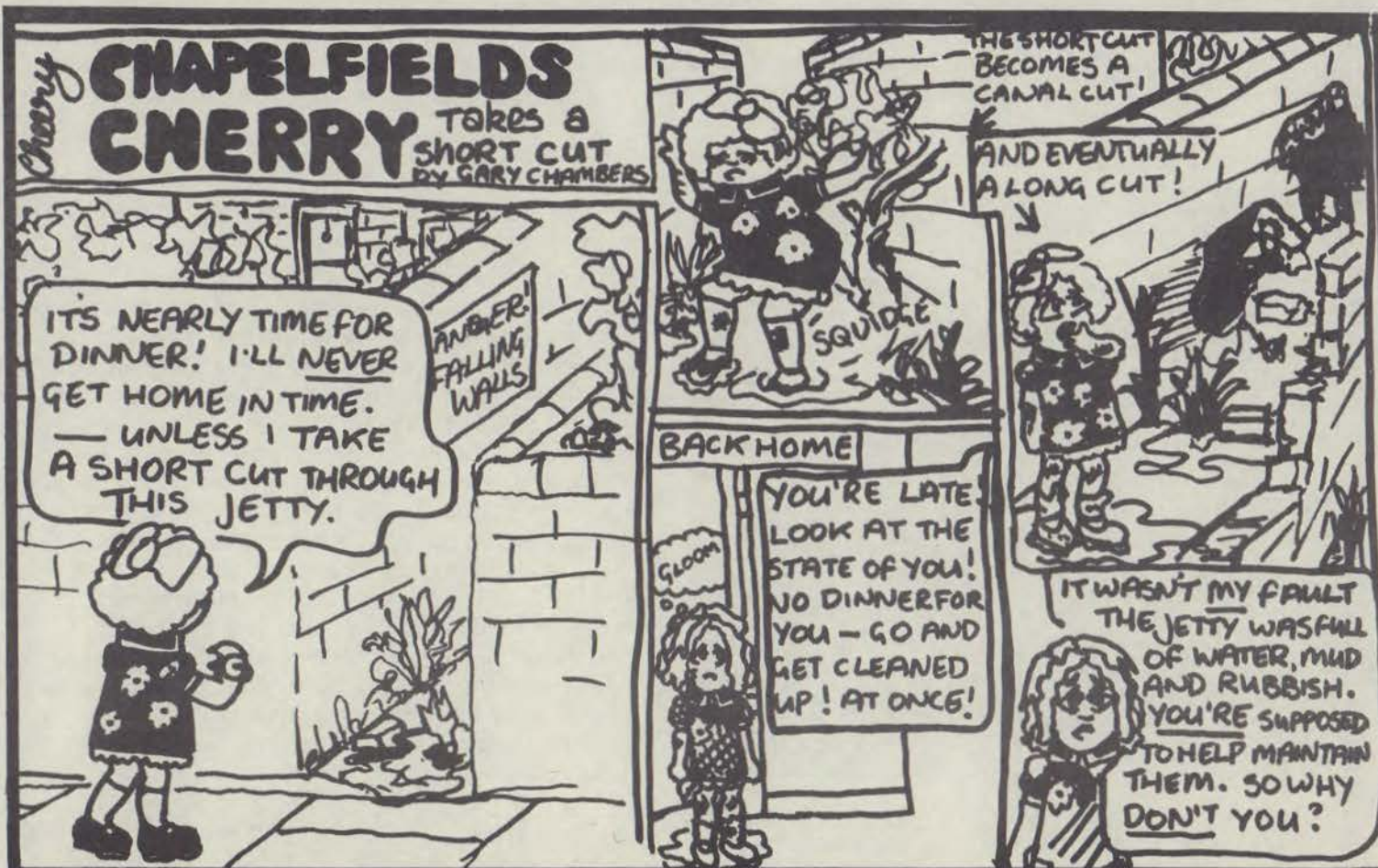


Val & John
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BROOMFIELD ROAD, EARLSDON
cut flowers



George and Barbara
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JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT³

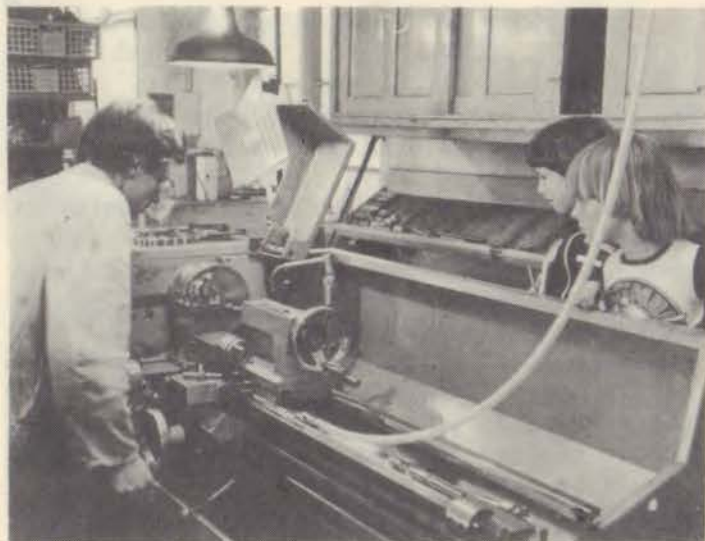
Lord Street Sunday School

Last Friday I took Samantha and Mark from Mrs. Jones' class at Hearsall Community Primary School to visit C.W. Walker Limited in Lord Street. The firm is owned by Colin and Peter Walker who showed us round.

If you're interested in history, it's a fascinating factory. It was built as a Sunday School in 1860 and was attached to the Baptist Church just round the corner. In 1926 it was bought by Charles William Walker, the present owners' grandfather who changed it into a factory which started working in 1928.

It was powered by a belt and pulley system which is still working. It runs centrally above the machine it drives. The whole system works from one electric motor, and what's more it has never needed repairing in 52 years. Many of the machines in the factory such as grinders, saws and lathes still operate off the pulley system.

What most impressed me was the kindness and consideration shown to the two children. They had at least four different machines operated specially for them. I think they found it puzzling that the things that were made there were not recognisable as everyday objects. Everything goes on to big firms to be assembled with something larger. They supply firms such as Alvis, British Leyland, Dunlop and Alfred Herbert's - mostly with bits for machine tools. And it's all precision work and has to work out very expensive. "That", said Peter pointing to a steel cylinder about a foot long that was being ground out inside, "would probably cost about £60 and when the lot is put together into a bearing at the next factory it's worth about £900. We have to charge about £5 for every man-hour worked here. About half of that is wages and insurance. The rest is costs." "Any profit we make is invested straight back into the firm", said Colin.



How do they see the future? Well, perhaps a bit worried about the possible withdrawing of Government funds from some of the larger firms they supply. "If they suffer, we suffer as well."

Mark when he got back to school said he was impressed by how accurate their measurements have to be, since some work is done to half a thousandth of an inch. Peter had shown them with a micrometer that a piece of paper was four thousandths of an inch.

"We don't work in inches at school and they don't work in metric", said Mark. He still wants to work in a bank. Samantha thought there were nice people there. She doesn't want to work in a factory - she thinks it's dirty and noisy.

Well, nevertheless, thank you, C.W. Walker for an entertaining visit.

LEARN TO DRIVE

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We Hire Ladders, Steps, Planks,
Pasting Tables and Electric Carpet
Shampooer

Dear Echo...

your letters page.

Pram Race

"I was wondering whether any of your readers would be interested in a pram race?

"I have already had some interest shown in the Broomfield Road area, but we would like to make it an Earlsdon event, and as I have sadly heard there is to be no Earlsdon Carnival this year, perhaps the pram race could replace it in some way and I am sure would be just as much fun.

"If anyone is interested, please write or ring giving name, address and age and I shall be getting in touch."

Jim King
65 Broomfield Road,
Earlsdon.

Tel: 70842

Competitions

"As a regular visitor to Earlsdon, may I make a suggestion that could be fun and make a few people pull their socks up.

"It's a competition for the Best Shop Assistant in the area. Anyone can nominate a shop assistant telling why they chose that person. It's just an idea that could be a lot of fun. Let's face it, the shop assistants are a very important part of the area in many ways.

"Perhaps a local look at people's front gardens might be another idea for a competition. The Best Kept Garden in the area could perhaps prick a few consciences and make people tidy up a little, all helping with the general look of the area."

D.E. Brake (Mrs.)
48 Beanfield Avenue,
Green Lane.

While we're not sure how a Best Shop Assistant competition would work in practice, a Best Kept Garden contest seems an excellent idea. In fact, we have a sponsor prepared to put up a £10 prize, and the winner might be featured in E.C.H.O. Is anyone interested in organising this? If so, please contact E.C.H.O., either through Graham Partridge at Earlsdon Library or in writing to 77 Newcombe Road.

Hearsall Common

"Having read the June edition I find some comment on the subject concerning the footpath across Hearsall Common alongside the telephone box in Fife Road.

"I can assure the local people that a Ward Councillor was apprised about this some twelve months ago and nothing has been done. Perhaps the Councillors should take a walk round their Ward more frequently instead of driving past in their big cars."

K.R. Ashford
20 Queensland Avenue,
Coventry.

We understand that Councillor Hilton has taken up the original suggestions. He has arranged for wide paving to be laid around the telephone kiosk. A wide path is also to be laid across the flower bed only, to link up with the path across the grass area. The fencing by the kiosk will be repaired soon and a large litter bin will be provided.

We welcome your letters. Here is a chance to air your views on local matters. Please address your correspondence to:
ECHO Editorial Committee,
c/o Earlsdon Library,
Earlsdon Avenue North.

E.H.ROLFE & Co.
Your Local Supplier of
**hardwood
and softwood Doors**

Also a Wide Range of D-I-Y MATERIALS

173, Albany Rd. Earlsdon
Tel: Cov. 72845

Man's Best Friend?

"I answer to the letter about 'Man's Best Friend' in the June edition. I don't live within the E.C.H.O. area but I am in Earlsdon three to four times a week due to my aging mother who needs shopping etc.

"I've noticed the ever increasing number of dogs who roam the area on their own; they frighten me and my son. Also, it's hard to walk 20 yards or so free of dog mess on pavements, car parks etc.

"Perhaps we should have our very own 'Earlsdon Dog Warden'. As the original letter says, 'I am NOT blaming the dogs'. But let's stop passing the buck and get something done about this messy problem.

"May I add that I enjoy the E.C.H.O. each month. I wish you all well and keep up the good work."

(Name and address withheld on request.)

* * * *

"I wholeheartedly endorse the views expressed in the letter entitled 'Man's Best Friend?'

"I have had a number of frightening experiences with stray dogs including being bitten in the calf.

"My latest experience occurred on the afternoon of Thursday 7th June this year. Whilst cycling along Corporation Street two barking dogs began chasing me and snapping at my legs. I was pursued a mile to my home feeling frightened and angry, but fortunately not bitten.

"The idea of calling in the Coventry dog warden is one which would receive my full support."

(Name and address withheld on request.)

Here are some facts about the problem of stray dogs:

The number of dogs in the United Kingdom has nearly doubled in the last twenty years and it is estimated that there are now about six million. In Coventry, there are 15,500 licensed dogs and it is reckoned there are a similar number of unlicensed dogs. The term 'stray dogs' is used to describe both ownerless dogs and those which have wandered away from their homes. Some 200,000 stray dogs a year are taken to police stations and the total number of strays may be as high as one million.

The Dogs Act 1906, gave the police statutory responsibility for the capture, custody and disposal of stray dogs. However, many local authorities have accepted that the police do not have the resources to deal with the stray dog problem and have taken steps themselves. A recent Government report recommends that the responsibility should be transferred to the local authorities and that the licence fee should be increased to £5 (with a corresponding increase in the fine for non-compliance) largely to finance an expanded Dog Warden service.

Coventry City Council have had a Dog Warden service since November 1973, with one lady Warden employed. Captured stray dogs are taken to the R.S.P.C.A. kennels in Coventry Street and kept a minimum of seven days. They are usually collected within a short time by their owners, otherwise attempts are made to find them alternative homes. Due to a petition presented to the Council recently concerning the stray dog nuisance in Stoke Heath, Council officials are to meet the police to discuss the problem of stray dogs in Coventry.

LOOK

AN ADVERT THIS SIZE COSTS JUST £2.50

Copy date: 20th of previous month

Please contact: Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Lib.

DRY ROT,
DAMP COURSE
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Estimates free. 30 year protected guarantee
Tel: 78738 (24-hour answering service)

Kilrot

Please note that it is the policy of the Editorial Committee to withhold names and addresses of correspondents only if there appears to be sufficient justification.

SHOPPING

ATKINS & BARKER

This important local firm continues to expand with a new shop which opened at 72 Albany Road on 18th June. Pressure on space in the main shop meant that a separate shop was required for electrical goods. It sells a wide range, including plugs, sockets, cable lamps and fluorescent fittings - everything in fact for the do-it-yourself fan.

EARLSDON CAR ACCESSORIES AND SPARES

Geoff Ford and Terry Lindsay, who opened their new business at 15 Broomfield Road this month are both experienced mechanics who have been running a workshop in Holyhead Road for the last two years.

They are happy to give free advice to amateurs trying to fix their own cars and plan to start a tool hire service in the future. Through bulk buying they intend to give generous discounts and reckon they can obtain parts quickly for all types of car, including foreign models. As well as stocking the usual range of spray paints, body fillers etc., they specialise in MoT failure work, exhausts, brakes and clutches. The shop is open seven days a week, including Sunday mornings.

EARLSDON CO-OP

An artist's impression of the planned new Co-op supermarket has recently gone on display in one of the empty windows. The residents of No.3 Poplar Road are being rehoused temporarily in order for reinforcement work to be done on the property prior to the demolition of the first house. When there is thus clear access to the back of the site then the major demolition work will be able to go ahead. The Co-op management are still hopeful that the new store will be open by Christmas.

JOHN TAYLOR

Specialist of
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JOHN TAYLOR will exchange
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TENNIS, SQUASH, BADMINTON RACKETS
REPAIRED + RE-STRUNG

24-hour service

POB CRAWL

No 3. Coombe Abbey Inn, Chapelfields

Summer Sunday Evenings are here and a few jars at the local is the best way to prepare oneself for the fact that tomorrow is Monday.

Sunday evenings at the Coombe Abbey, Craven Street, are indeed restful, the crowds of determined fun-makers from Saturday and Friday nights are gone, and one can chatter in the corners of the cosy lounge and sample the excellent beers. The Draught Bass is a very good drink and while the Bitter isn't in the same league it is still very palatable. The lager is the same as anywhere else, and they also sell a draught mild.

We could faintly hear a juke box from the bar, but it did not intrude upon the conversation. The gardens at the back of the pub, which are laid out into terraces, are very pleasant in the summer, and there is a pool table in the back room.

So if you wish to play darts or pool, listen to the juke box, sit in the moonlight serenaded by the buses going down Hearsall Lane or just chatter in the lounge, it's all there. With very good beer, what more could one wish for?

IF YOU BUY FROM AN ADVERTISER,
TELL HIM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN
E.C.H.O.

Holiday Playscheme

The Education Committee has agreed to a holiday playscheme being held at Broadway School and has made a grant to pay for one play leader and two helpers. The playscheme will run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm and will have all manner of games and activities.

The dates are as follows: July 30th, 31st; August 2nd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 27th, 28th, 30th.

E.C.H.O.

E.C.H.O. is not an ordinary kind of newspaper. It's a community paper, so it belongs to all of us who live or work in this neighbourhood. The more people actually involved, the better E.C.H.O. will be. We need more people who will write up news and items of concern and come to the regular meetings of the editorial group. We welcome snippets - of interest, requests or offers, exchanges etc., which are put in free. Advertisers are welcome to buy space in E.C.H.O. at £2.50 per column inch. The easy way to contact E.C.H.O. is to put your letter, message or snippet into the E.C.H.O. box always in Earlsdon Library; or write to 77 Newcombe Road, Earlsdon.

Thank you

In addition to the list published in the June issue, we would also like to thank the following shops who have supported E.C.H.O. by agreeing to sell it at no profit to themselves, as a service to the community:

ROSEMARIE HAIR FASHIONS Mayfield Road
TOP SHOP Earlsdon Street
B. WRIGHT, OFF-LICENCE Sovereign Road
POST OFFICE Mayfield Road
MOORE'S OFF-LICENCE Moor Street

E.C.H.O. is available wherever you see an 'E.C.H.O. ON SALE HERE' poster. As we said before, please try to ensure that any old or infirm folk you know get a copy.

Our G.I.A.

We reported in the last issue that the petition calling for the immediate declaration of part of Earlsdon as a General Improvement Area, would be discussed at Housing Committee on 14th June. Unfortunately Councillor Hilton was unable to attend, so the petition was deferred. It will now be discussed at Housing Committee on Thursday 12th July, at the Council House. The meeting starts at 10.00 am, and the petition will be among the first items on the agenda. We would remind you that this meeting is open to the public to attend and listen.

EARLSDON CAR ACCESSORIES & SPARES



15 Broomfield Road Tel: 711073

JOY'S TREASURE CHEST

3 Broomfield Road Tel: 711829

WIDE SELECTION OF NEW & NEARLY NEW GOODS
* 10% off when you produce this advert *

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE (continued from page 1)

Action Area (H.A.A.) you could get a Repairs Grant just for your wall but neither a G.I.A. nor an H.A.A. seem likely to be declared here in the near future.

LOANS

The Council will give a loan to help with the cost of repairing or rebuilding a wall but only if you have been served with a 'dangerous structure' notice. The loans are of course repayable, and with interest. The Council do appear to be making a little more effort for senior citizens. A pensioner with a 'dangerous structure' notice would be eligible for a 'maturity loan', where only the interest is repaid. Depending on individual circumstances this might be paid by Social Security, so it's obviously worth looking into. You need to take or send your notice and an estimate for the cost of the work to Vesta House, New Union Street. If you have not received a notice but want to see if you could get a loan you can ring the Planning Department and get the Building Surveyors section (tel: 25555 extension 2821 or 2895), to inspect your wall to see if you are eligible.

OUT OF POCKET

Regrettably, for all those people in the area who had 'dangerous structure' notices in April and have already paid out of their own pocket, there is absolutely no provision for reimbursement. So we regret that the well-meant advice in our April issue to keep any bills for work done on your walls may be of no use.

If you have any queries about grants and loans to help with walls we suggest you contact Environmental Health Services (tel: 25555 extension 2334), where receptionists are ready to answer your questions.

If you would like informal advice about your walls please contact Jim King, 65 Broomfield Road, tel: 70842.

MRS. V. RANDLE

We apologise for the distress caused to Mrs. V. Randle, President of Broadway Youth Club, by inaccuracies in our last month's report on the Festival hand-out meeting.

E.C.H.O. SNIPPETS

WANTED

Help in recycling newspapers & with odd jobs. Please write to: Miss C.M. Reed, 33 Ludlow Rd., Earlsdon.

EARLSDON METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome to the Sunday services:
Morning at 11 am
Evening at 6.30pm

EC.H.O. NEEDS HELP

Needed urgently: typist and graphic artist. Please contact Graham Partridge at Earlsdon Library.

LOST

Pair of man's spectacles in black leather case, 9.00-10.45 pm Friday 15th June, in Earlsdon St. Please phone Cov. 77284, or hand to Secretary, Albany Social Club.

HOUSE/FLAT WANTED

If anyone has a 1, 2 or 3 bedroomed self contained flat or house to let, please contact Gary, 8A, Warwick Street, tel. 72413.

WANTED

Second-hand guitar - for Verecroft hostel, 20, Davenport Road. Please contact Eileen O'Neill tel. 76763

PROBLEMS WITH CHILDREN? UNDER STRESS? TALK TO P.A.L.S.

(PARENTS ANONYMOUS LISTENING SERVICE) IN CONFIDENCE
Phone Cov. 21148 7pm-10pm.

Pop your Snippets into the ECHO BOX, Earlsdon Library

E.C.H.O. Diary of Events

(Please send items for inclusion to Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Library, by 25th of the previous month.)

- June 30th - July 7th 7.30 pm Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' Criterion Theatre Berkeley Road South Box office: 75175
- July 3rd - 20th 'Boys Brigade' - display at Earlsdon Library
- 4th 8.00 pm Over 50's Club Fresh Food Cookery Demonstration Hearsall Sch. Bristol Rd.
- 5th 2.00 pm Tea at Two Fund-raising Fair Hearsall School Bristol Road
- 6th - 7th Sponsored Backgammon Marathon in aid of the Blind and Multi-Handicapped Kids of Coventry West Orchard Car park, City Centre Organised by Coventry Backgammon Club, Hylands Hotel, Warwick Road
- 10th 7.30 pm Hearsall W.I. Visit to Whitefriars Monastery Meet at the Monastery
- 11th 2.15 pm Earlsdon Methodist Young Wives Strawberry Tea and Produce Auction Berkeley Room, in the Church Hall
- 12th Monday Club 'Coffee Morning' for St. Faith's Shelter 1 Beechwood Avenue
- 12th 2.00 pm Tea at Two Strawberry and Cream Tea As above
- 23rd - 30th 'Here We Are' - National Children's Art Exhibition for the International Year of the Child Earlsdon Library
- 30th 1.00 pm Holiday Playscheme begins at Broadway School (Further details - see page 8)

The Diary is rather thin this month due to the closing down of many local groups and activities over the summer period.